

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PACIFIC GATEWAY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT NETWORK
ANNOUNCES
NEW RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

Starting a business? Growing a business? Need a trained workforce? How about cutting edge labor market Information? Have a business in Torrance, but want to start one in Long Beach?

Check this out!

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's (Network) new **2008 Small Business Resource Guide** is a fantastic free tool to help business owners find the answers they need. Designed to broaden and connect the regional base of employer information, the **Guide** includes a listing of free business resources in the Lomita, Long Beach, Signal Hill, Torrance, Harbor Gateway, San Pedro and Wilmington.

"Small businesses are the biggest employers in Southern California," said Vivian Shimoyama, Lead Los Angeles Regional Network Center Consultant for California Small Business Development Center and Workforce Investment Board member. "Keeping them healthy creates and maintains jobs for our workforce. Economic development and workforce development are true partners and this smart Resource Guide will benefit both."

Determined to listen to business owners, enhance collaborations, avert layoffs, and increase business retention, the Network's team conducted a Business Retention Survey and facilitated a Business Retention Roundtable. These previous efforts identified a need for a central resource that could better help small area businesses learn about, and access, the multitude of business services in the Pacific Gateway communities.

The result? The Network's **Small Business Resource Guide**, a one-stop resource for small businesses including one-on-one consulting, access to capital, tax incentives, business development workshops, online recruiting, hiring assistance, technology solutions and more.

The **Small Business Resource Guide** is now available electronically at pacificgatewayworkforce.com. Printed copies can be obtained by emailing workforce_dev@longbeach.gov or calling 562.570.4718.

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network offers free services to both businesses and job seekers in LOMITA, LONG BEACH, SIGNAL HILL, TORRANCE, HARBOR CITY, HARBOR GATEWAY, SAN PEDRO, AND WILMINGTON. For more information about services call 562.570.WORK or visit www.pacificgatewayworkforce.com.

